REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 18-20 have been cancelled, claims 17 and 22-25 have been amended, and claims 27-30 have been added. Accordingly, claims 17 and 21-30 are in the application and subject to examination.

The specification has been amended by deleting paragraph 0041 and replacing it with new paragraphs 0041.1, 0041.2, and 0041.3. The new paragraphs are similar to original paragraph 0041, but add terminology to provide antecedent basis for some of the new claim limitations. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed, particularly paragraph 0041, and the drawings, particularly FIG. 8. No new matter has been added.

Claims 17 and 25 have been amended to set forth limitations that distinguish the invention from the prior art cited by the examiner. Claims 27-30 have been added to further define the invention. Support for the amendments that have been made to claims 17 and 25, and for new claims 27-30, can be found in the specification at pages 7 and 9-10, and in the drawings, particularly FIG. 8.

Claims 17 and 21-26 have been rejected as allegedly being obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Jacober, et al., U.S. 6,662,081. Applicant traverses the rejection of these claims and requests reconsideration.

As noted in the specification at page one, pillboxes in a wide variety of sizes and shapes have been known for many years. Unfortunately, currently available pillboxes often are large, cumbersome objects that are difficult to transport conveniently. Recently, portable electronic devices ("PEDs") such as cellular telephones and personal digital assistants have become widely available. PEDs purposefully are compact and

portable, and usually are carried by their owners at all times. However, PEDs are used only for such purposes as aural communication, mathematical calculations, and so forth. The present invention provides a pillbox that can be attached to a PED and carried therewith. The pillbox according to the invention is compact, inexpensive, and readily usable. One feature of the invention that will be useful to consumers is the capability of the pillbox to be attached to an existing PED without modification of the PED. Another feature of the invention is the capability to provide software for the PED that will provide reminders to a user to take medication at prescribed intervals or times.

In response to the most recent Office Action, applicant has amended independent claims 17 and 25 and added new claims 26-30. Claim 17 now calls for a pillbox for attachment to a PED having side wall portions. The body portion is attached to the PED by clips that project from the opposing sides and which wrap around the side wall portions of the PED. The door that defines the compartment is stated to be hollow such that the door in a closed position overlies a portion of the flat wall and together with the flat wall defines a compartment within which pills can be disposed. The door is defined to have opposed side portions and opposed end portions, the side portions and the end portions defining a perimeter that engages the flat wall in surface-to-surface contact to establish a closure for the compartment. The door is movable relative to the body portion to selectively open and close the compartment, the compartment being closed when the perimeter of the door is entirely in contact with the flat wall and the compartment being open when at least a portion of the perimeter of the door is not in contact with the flat wall. A connection is provided between the door and the body portion, the connection between the door and the body portion being defined by the side

portions of the door and a pair of spaced, parallel tracks that are included as part of the wall of the body portion and which receive the side portions of the door. The door is movable back and forth along the tracks in a plane parallel with the plane in which the flat wall lies, the perimeter portion of the door being in contact with the flat wall during those times that the door overlies the flat wall.

Claims 21-26 were added to further define the invention in the most recent amendment (the dependency of claims 22-24 has been changed herein to reflect the cancellation of claim 18). Claim 25 is a detailed claim that includes many of the features of the invention discussed herein, including the subject matter of claims 22-24, except the software. The software is included as a further limitation in claim 26, which is dependent upon claim 25.

Claims 27-30 have been added to set forth additional details of the connection between the door and the body portion. Claims 27 and 29 are dependent on claims 17 and 25, respectively. Claims 27 and 29 call for means for keeping the door in a compartment-closed position. Claims 28 and 30 state that the means for keeping the door in a compartment-closed position comprises flexible tabs included as part of the door, the tabs providing an interference fit with the ends of the tracks when the door is centered within the tracks, the tabs being movable in order to be disposed within the tracks when the door is moved toward a compartment-open position.

The patent to Jacober et al. does not teach or suggest the foregoing features of the claimed invention and therefore cannot render claims 17 and 21-30 obvious as alleged by the examiner. In the '081 patent, sleeve 29 has a flat wall 42 from which rails 55 project from the sides. Flat wall 42 is parallel with a corresponding wall on the

medication monitor 24. Rails 55 slide into interlocking slots 57 defined by the flat wall 42 and inwardly projecting interlocking rails 58 included as part of a medication monitor 24. In this construction, unlike the claimed invention, the connection between the sleeve 29 and the medication monitor 24 does not wrap around the sides of the medication monitor 24. Hence, the device according to the '081 patent cannot be applied to a pre-existing PED. Indeed, the device disclosed in the '081 patent obviously is custom-manufactured for use only with a single PED of predetermined dimensions with special features such as the slots 57.

In the claimed invention, the movable door is connected to the body portion by spaced tracks that permit sliding movement of the door relative to the body portion. The door slides against the body portion, but is not disposed within the body portion, either when the door is open or when it is closed. In the '081 device, the tray 28 is connected to the sleeve 29 by virtue of the sidewall 31 encasing the tray 28. The sleeve 29 basically is an elongate receptacle that receives the tray 28 in a telescoping manner. In this construction, unlike the claimed invention where the door is always exposed, the tray 28 is completely disposed within the sleeve 29 when the tray 28 is closed, and is partially disposed within the sleeve 29 when the tray 28 is open. In effect, the '081 device does not have a door that defines a compartment, as claimed.

In the claimed invention, detents permit the door to be grasped easily. In the '081 device, there are no detents. In the claimed invention, there is an angled flat surface on the door that permits the PED to be stabilized when it is placed on its back on a flat surface. The surface extends only for a portion of the length of the door. In the '081 device, the sleeve 29 and the tray 28 have flattened bottom surfaces 53, 54

along their entire lengths. See column 5, lines 8-20. In the claimed invention, flexible tabs (claims 28 and 30) provide an interference fit at the ends of the spaced tracks to prevent unintended displacement of the door. In the '081 device, a number of internal and external stop members are used to prevent undesired movement of the tray 28 and the sleeve 29.

The net result of the foregoing differences is that the claimed invention is smaller, lighter, and less expensive to manufacture than the device of the '081 patent. The claimed invention has fewer moving parts. It can be used with a variety of existing PEDs, whereas the '081 device can be used only with specially manufactured PEDs that are designed to accept it. In order to produce the claimed device from the '081 device, one would have to completely discard Jacober's sleeve 29 and significantly modify the tray 28 and the medication monitor 24. There is no suggestion in the Jacober patent or the other prior art of record that would lead one of skill in the art to engage in such extensive modification.

CONCLUSION

The patent relied on by the examiner fails to render obvious the invention claimed by applicant. The application now should be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, she is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expedite prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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